

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #5063A

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A floor mat system comprising a plurality of floor mat sizes each having the same width and each floor mat comprising  
a carpet pile backing or carrier of non-woven fibrous construction;  
a pile material tufted into said carpet pile backing which forms a pile surface on one side of said pile backing; and  
a vulcanized rubber backing sheet integrated in contacting relation to the other side of the pile backing, wherein the pile backing and rubber backing sheet have substantially matched shrinkage character under industrial washing and drying conditions, and wherein each of the pile backing and the rubber backing sheet are characterized by shrinkage of less than about 2.5% when subjected to industrial washing and drying, such that the floor mat is substantially resistant to rippling following industrial washing and drying.
  2. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein said rubber backing sheet comprises a blowing agent to produce a closed cell structure foam rubber.
  3. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, further comprising solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips along at least one of the borders of each mat.
  4. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein each said floor mat possesses suitable flexibility to be laundered on a regular basis in a standard industrial washing machine without appreciably damaging said mat or said machine.

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5. (Original) The floor mat system of claim 1, wherein said carpet pile backing is a nonwoven polyester.
6. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein each of said floor mats have a width of about 28 inches.
7. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1 wherein said carpet pile backing is comprised of natural or synthetic fibers or blends thereof.
8. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1 wherein said pile material is comprised of natural or synthetic fibers or blends thereof.
9. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1 wherein said pile material is comprised of 100% jet dyed nylon fibers.
10. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1 wherein said carpet pile backing weighs from about 3.5 to about 4.5 ounces per square yard.

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11. (Currently Amended) ~~The floor mat system of Claim 1~~ A floor mat system comprising a plurality of floor mat sizes each having the same width and each floor mat comprising

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a carpet pile backing or carrier;

a pile material tufted into said carpet pile backing which forms a pile surface on one side  
of said pile backing; and

a vulcanized rubber backing sheet integrated in contacting relation to the other side of the  
pile backing wherein said ~~carpet~~ pile material weighs less than about 20 ounces per square yard.

12. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein said floor mats are offered in 4 sizes and 6 colors.
13. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein said backing sheet is an about 60 mil thick solid rubber.
14. (Currently Amended) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein said floor mats may have one of three border colors.
15. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein each of said mats has a total mat weight of less than 0.60 lbs./sq. ft.
16. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein each of said floor mats is one of a plurality of floor mats formed simultaneously from a single backing sheet.
17. (Original) The floor mat system of Claim 1, wherein the sizes of mats are 28"x42", 28"x59", 49"x57", and 28"x100".

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18. (Canceled) ✓

19. (Canceled) ✓

20. (Canceled) ✓

21. (Canceled) ✓

22. (New) A floor mat system comprising a plurality of floor mat sizes each having the same width and each floor mat comprising

a carpet pile backing or carrier of non-woven fibrous construction;

a pile material tufted into said carpet pile backing which forms a pile surface on one side of said pile backing; and

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a vulcanized rubber backing sheet having a specific gravity in the range of about 0.5 to 0.98 integrated in contacting relation to the other side of the pile backing, wherein the pile backing and rubber backing sheet have substantially matched shrinkage character under industrial washing and drying conditions, and wherein each of the pile backing and the rubber backing sheet are characterized by shrinkage of less than about 2.5% when subjected to industrial washing and drying, such that the floor mat is substantially resistant to rippling following industrial washing and drying, wherein the carpet pile backing weighs from about 3.5 to about 4.5 ounces per square yard, the pile material weighs less than about 20 ounces per square yard, the rubber backing sheet weighs less than about 58 ounces per square yard and each of the mats has a total mat weight of less than 0.60 pounds per square foot.